

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/613,278

Applicant(s)

HRANICA ET AL.

Examiner

Jayprakash N Gandhi

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 09/17/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14 and 16-24 (Renumbered 1-23).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 03 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James A. Balazs (Reg. No. 47401) on November 23, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method of identifying workstations that performed work on a workpiece in a work line comprising a plurality of zones, wherein each zone comprises a plurality of workstations that perform the same type of operation, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a.) providing a unique code for identifying each workstation;
- (b.) performing work on the workpiece in one of the workstations in a first zone~~one of the zones~~;
- (c.) marking the workpiece in accordance with the code for the workstation that worked on the workpiece in step (b.);
- (d.) performing work on the workpiece in one of the workstations in a second zone;
- (e.) marking the workpiece in accordance with the code for the workstation that worked on the workpiece in step (d.);
- (f.) if there is ~~a~~are ~~zone~~zones following the currentsecond zone, moving the workpiece to each of the following zone~~zones~~ and performing work on the workpiece in one of the workstations in each of the following zones and marking the workpiece in accordance with the code for the workstation that worked on the workpiece in each of the following zones.

~~(e.) if the workpiece has been moved to the following zone in step (d.), returning to step (b.).~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 10, wherein each of the unique codes comprises a mark and ~~the~~a location of the mark on the workpiece.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the ~~locations~~marks of the ~~unique codes~~ are on distinguishably different components of the workpiece.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 11, wherein the unique codes comprise:

first unique codescode types, wherein ~~for each of the location of the marks of said first unique codes, code types are the~~location is unique with respect to all of the other unique codes; and

second unique codescode types, wherein ~~for each of the second unique codes, the location is of the marks of the second unique code types are not unique with respect to all of the other unique codes.~~

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13, wherein the marks for the first unique codescode types are drill marks.

Claim 15 (Cancelled):

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~45~~13, wherein the marks for the second unique codescode types are numeric characters.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jayprakash N Gandhi whose telephone number is 571-272-3740. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-5:00 (Mon. - Thu.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo P Picard can be reached on 571-272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2125

JNG